

## Robert Wilson on Movement

For me, time is a line that goes to the centre of the earth and goes to the heavens. Time and space make the basic architecture of everything. It is in the theatre, the building we are in. It's in the chair you are sitting on. It is how you play Mozart on a piano. It is how you stand on a stage.

In 1973, I went to a concert in Paris. There were five singers, four of them were sitting on stage like they were waiting for a bus and one was sitting differently. It was so beautiful. Then the one singer stood up. It was so beautiful when she began to sing. This lady could sit on a stage. She could stand on a stage. It was beautiful when she sang. Western theatre has become bound by literature. If we look at the classical theatre of Japan, they learn at the age of two how to walk on a stage. They learn how to make a gesture. And even when they are 62 years old, they will still go back to their teacher thanking him for teaching them a gesture of weeping. The very same gesture they started when they were two. We never completely learn everything. We are always learning.

Marlene Dietrich was such an actress who could stand on a stage. I once saw her 17 times while she was performing in Paris. In 1972, I had dinner with her one night. I thought we would have dinner alone, but there was this gentleman from Munich who was writing a book about her. He told Marlene, "Oh, Miss Dietrich, you're so cold when you perform." And she said, "But you didn't listen to my voice." And that was so true. The voice could be very hot and erotic, while her movements could be icy-cold. She turned to me and said, "The difficulty is to place the voice with the face." That was her power, that icy-cold movement and that hot-erotic voice. It is like in "Rheingold", the music is rushing and rushing which compels the singers to go with the music. No, no, no, no, no... Go against the music. That is the tension. That is the architecture. John Cage said that there is no such thing as silence. There is always sound. So, I hear this little sound. I hear myself breathing. Whether I am always listening, or I am speaking, or I just stop speaking. **The line always goes on. You cannot start or stop anything. You must continue. If you are walking on a stage and you stop, the movement does not stop. As long as we are living, we are moving. There is no such thing as no-movement. So, when I begin to walk, the line continues. And if I stop, the line goes on. It is all one thing.** As Einstein said about space and time, "It is all the same thought." If I see my hand here, it is a portrait. If I see my hand there, it is a still life, but if I go a mile away, it is a part of a landscape.